

Amington April 16th 1833

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Dear Bro Phelps

Wife & myself arrived in this place
on Saturday, little more than two weeks since.
We came by Steam Boat from N Haven via N York.
In many respects this is a pleasant & interesting field.
We find a hospitable people, & much more of refinement
than we anticipated. A majority of the leading men
in society would not suffer in comparison with men
in N York or Boston. There is a larger circle of in-
telligent interesting ladies here than in any place I ever
visited in proportion to the size of the village.
The revival here, two years since, brought most of them
into the church. V Bro Whittelsey did a great deal
of good here, & has left behind him many warm friends.
He had however from the commencement of his labors, to en-
counter a determined opposition, which was one among other causes
which led to his dismissal. V Bro W. you know does not
want for independence of character & it may be that this
led him to take less pains to conciliate those who made
what he considered unreasonable complaints, than some others would
have done. Party spirit here has run very high, & there is

no doubt but a great deal of wrong feeling has been
exercised. What the future will disclose it is impossible
to divine - at present, the waters that have been for a
long time violently troubled, are perfectly calm, but it is
not improbable that it is only a calm which precedes
a storm. There was something singular about my intro-
duction here. The majority of the Society's Committee who
sent for me, are Bro W's warmest opposers, & were wholly
ignorant of the fact that Bro W. was one of my regular
correspondents & most intimate friends. Had they known this
it is likely that I should have been the last person they
would have sent for. However one member of the Com who
stands well with all parties, tells me that my preaching
seems to take with the "Anties" (as they are significantly
termed) wonderfully. Taylorism is, in their estimation, worse
than infidelity, but ^{they} swore right up & down that I am not
a Taylorite. W's friends say nothing, but look on with consider-
able interest, hoping that things are coming out about right. Altho
every thing as yet, goes on pleasantly & smoothly, yet I think
there is very little probability, taking every thing into consideration
that I shall make this a permanent residence. First I may
not have an opportunity. Secondly if so, the bleak easterly winds
to which this place is very much exposed, I am apprehensive
^{will} be detrimental to Mrs B's health - it requires an iron con-
stitution to resist them. Thirdly the Society at present is
so large that I cannot & will not attempt to perform

the labor necessary to be done. The town is about seven
miles square, & has but one Society, altho they have two
churches from three to four miles apart. I have to preach
in both these churches every Sabbath, & then preach again in
the evening. As for attempting to do this for any length
of time I shall not. Bro W. came near killing himself &
we have done so, had he remained a year or two longer. They are
talking about a division, but as there is considerable opposition to
it it is very uncertain whether it is effected at present. The Society's
Committee waited on me a day or two since & wished to engage for
three mos. I declined. I told them I would supply them for
the present, & would be at liberty to leave when I chose. So you
see I am still afloat. Should there be an opening in Saint V.
or anywhere else in your vicinity, where I can be
useful & happy you may consider me "in the market" as I should
not hesitate to leave here I think at any time. I certainly should not unless
some change is made in Society affairs & that speeding. Supposing wife
& I should take it into our heads to come & spend some months in Bos-
ton. Could you take us into your family - not as visitors but as boarders?
We do not want any attention or ceremony, any more than if we lived in
the most retired hook in the country - no more than you would bestow upon
a natural brother & sister. What are they doing out at Newford? I wish
you would write me the particulars as far as you can gather them.
Write soon & let us know all about yourself wife & boy - &c
Emily wishes to be affectionately remembered to you & yours - her health
is much improved. With fraternal affection Yours &c

A. C. Baldwin

Post of James
for the Pond.

Stonington
17 Apr. 66

Paid 12 1/2

Rev. Amos A. Phelps

Boston

Mass.

Paid

1853.

Apr 16 R

A. G. Baldwin